

From 1995 to 2019, the International Legislative Drafting Institute conducted two weeks of training each June, overcoming even Hurricane Katrina's destructive impact in 2005 by relocating from Tulane Law School in New Orleans to Washington, D.C., in 2006 and 2007. The Institute's organizers and a select group of speakers decided to celebrate the quarter-century milestone with a "Silver Anniversary" publication of articles written in their diverse areas of expertise.

This *International Legislative Drafting Guidebook* debuts in the year when a worldwide pandemic forced cancellation of the Institute for the first time in 25 years. Although COVID-19 prevented a 2020 convening of the Institute, this publication enables us to share the wisdom of our speakers with a worldwide audience.

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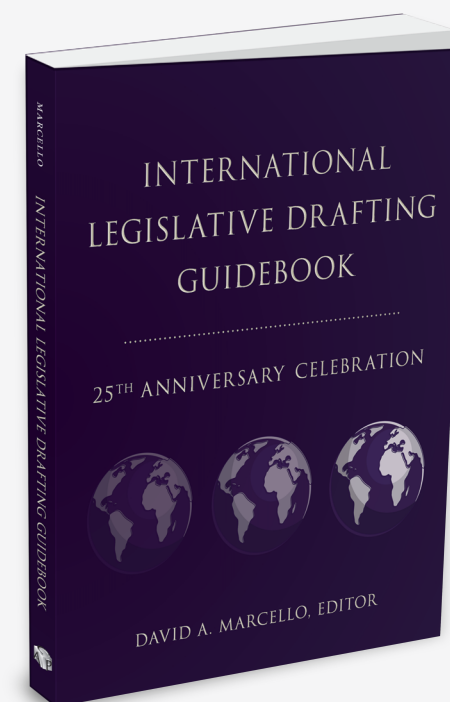
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This book is dedicated to the legions of legislative drafters around the world who have toiled, more often than not in obscurity, to get the language of legislation right, in order that the representative will of the people should be expressed with clarity.

We thank you for your service in this essential enterprise.

The International Legislative Drafting Institute derives its pedagogical power from the strength of its instructors. Since 1995, Institute participants have received training from some of the most capable and experienced drafters on the globe.



Garth Thornton (*Legislative Drafting*) and Richard Wydick (*Plain English for Lawyers*) shared their wisdom on multiple occasions with Institute graduates, who enjoyed a unique opportunity to see them brought together in the classroom. The *Guidebook* celebrates their presence at the Institute in a Photo Gallery and two remembrances in the *Reflections* section, where we reprint Garth's "Reflections on a Career in Legislative Drafting."

Legislative drafting experts from around the world have enriched the Institute since its inception 25 years ago. The *Guidebook* marks this quarter-of-a-century milestone by presenting the distilled wisdom of 18 speakers who have written articles in their diverse areas of expertise, addressing issues of local, national, and international importance.

The Institute curriculum has always gone beyond classroom instruction at Tulane Law School to afford participants practical wisdom about legislative drafting. Each year, we travel to Louisiana's State Capitol in Baton Rouge, where drafting staff offer valuable insights drawn from their own years of experience.



Participants visit House and Senate committee rooms to learn how legislators, staff, and the public interact during committee hearings, including a demonstration of audio-visual capabilities that facilitate transparency in the legislative process.

When the Louisiana Legislature is in session, we observe deliberations on the House or Senate floor. In years when the legislature is not in session, participants may go onto the floor and up on the dais in each chamber, while staff describe how presiding officers and clerks govern the proceedings, how the media cover them, and where lobbyists and the public are permitted to engage with members.



The Institute also introduces its visitors to the charms of South Louisiana. An opening day tour of New Orleans visits several attractions and points out places that participants may want to visit on weekends or during their free time. At Institute receptions and lunches, participants get to know one another; they exchange experiences that fuel an informal learning process outside of the classroom.

We debuted the *International Legislative Drafting Guidebook* in a worldwide Zoom conference during December 2020. Institute graduates and former speakers came together in a virtual community, sharing an online experience that spanned four continents and broke through the isolation imposed by COVID-19. One participant later observed, "I've been to a lot of conferences, and that didn't feel like a conference. It felt like a family reunion!"

Learn more about the *Guidebook* and view a brief video about the International Legislative Drafting Institute by visiting our website:

<https://law.tulane.edu/international-legislative-drafting-institute>

or send us an email inquiry via tplc@tulane.edu.